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UNCLAS BRATISLAVA 000860

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [LO](#) [NATO](#)

SUBJECT: Country Clearance granted for Stuart Seldowitz

REF: USNATO 000637

1. Embassy Bratislava welcomes D/PolAd Stuart Seldowitz and grants country clearance for the period of October 26-28, 2005. The embassy control officer for your visit is Lora Berg, CAO, tel: 421 2 5922 3083; cellphone: 421 903 721 174. Assisting Ms. Berg will be Aaron Chase, POL/MIL, tel: 421 2 5922 3376; cellphone: 421 903 227 328. Reservation has been made at the Hotel Radisson SAS Carlton (address: Hviezdoslavovo nam. 1, Bratislava, tel. 421 2 5939 0512, res. no 152932). Room charge at the hotel is USD 175, which is within Bratislava per diem. Post understands no other assistance is requested.

2. The U.S. Embassy's address is Hviezdoslavovo nam. 4, 811 02 Bratislava, Slovakia. Telephone numbers are: +421-2-5443-0861 or +421-2-5443-3338.

3. Security clearances and building access: if necessary, the regional security officer will provide a temporary embassy badge for you. Thank you for providing your clearance level in reftel.

4. Computer access to mission facilities: privately owned laptops and personal computers (including palm pilots), peripherals, diskettes and tapes are prohibited in all mission facilities. Travelers with United States Government (USG) owned unclassified laptop or notebook computers, peripherals,

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diskettes and tapes must receive RSO/IPO authorization prior to being granted access to U.S. mission buildings. USG-owned classified computers must be sent to post via classified diplomatic pouches. Classified equipment must bear external USG bar codes, inventory numbers, and classification marking commensurate with the highest level of information processed on the system.

5. Security: post reminds traveler that we are under a high level threat of potential terrorist activities. This warning is especially applicable to those of us in diplomatic missions overseas. The U.S. government continues to receive credible indications that extremist groups and individuals are planning additional terrorist actions against U.S. interests worldwide. Such actions may include, but are not limited to suicide operations. Because security and security awareness have been elevated within the United States, the terrorists may target U.S. interests overseas. There is a possibility that American citizens may be targeted for kidnapping or assassination. Employees are reminded to remain vigilant with regard to their personal security and to exercise caution.

6. The Slovak republic has a "medium" rate of crime, although violent crime is relatively uncommon. Visitors are urged to exercise reasonable precautions. If you must walk alone at night, keep to populous and well-lighted areas. Pay attention to your wallet, purse, handbag and cellular telephone, as all are popular targets of the local thieves. The local pickpockets are professional and most active during the summer. They tend to utilize distraction techniques to confuse their target, preferring locations such as shopping centers, markets and public transportation in the vicinity of the "old town", near major hotels where foreigners stay and tourist sites, and the night trains to Prague and Warsaw. Power struggles between organized crime elements, which can be violent, occur from time to time. This activity is not/not directed against Americans or other foreigners. The rate of auto theft, which is also connected to organized crime, is very high in Bratislava. Up-market European and American cars are preferred targets. The use of alarm systems or anti-theft devices is strongly encouraged.

7. Medical: The Embassy's principal physician liaison is Dr. Julia Bruce (tel.+421-2-5922-3138). If you experience a medical emergency after work hours, contact the embassy duty officer at cell phone 0903-703-666. If you cannot reach the duty officer, the embassy has a contract with an English-speaking Slovak doctor, Dr. Capova, who is available 24 hours a day to provide consultations and arrange treatment at local hospitals. Dr. Capova can be reached at 6252 5068 (home) or at 0904 637 836 (cell phone). Tell Dr. Capova that you are with the U.S. embassy and require emergency assistance. If necessary, dial 155 to contact the city ambulance service.

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